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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of this Body are honored to recognize significant milestones in the lives of the people of this State; and

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WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that Mr. Washington D. Burney is celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of his birth; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Burney is a reputable community leader in the Chatham-Avalon area and an outstanding citizen in a number of civic organizations and programs for the benefit of people throughout the city of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, He was born in Eastman, Georgia, and moved to Chicago at an early age; he attended Wendell Phillips High School and Wilson Junior College; and

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WHEREAS, He was a crusader in the late 1940s through his involvement in the Negro Labor Relations League; as a result of his dedication and zeal, the League was successful in securing jobs for African Americans in the bread, laundry, and beverage industries; he later became the first African-American driver/salesman for Anheuser-Busch in the area; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Burney is a founding member of the Chatham Avalon Park Community Council and served as president for 12 years; since 1955, he has been a devoted worker in the development of the community, participating in its politics and working continuously with the Council to achieve growing economic development and a great quality of life for residents in the Chatham community; and

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WHEREAS, He was a successful fundraising chairman of the South Central Health Center and Chairman of the Neighbor Forum

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1 for the late Mayor Harold Washington and Mayor Eugene Sawyer;
2 his best energy has also been devoted to many other community
3 organizations including the Chicago Urban League, NAACP, and
4 Operation PUSH; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Burney's service to religious and
6 not-for-profit sectors is exemplified by his current status as
7 member of the Trustee Board of Park Manor Congregational
8 Church, former Chairman of the Board, Vice-Chairman of the
9 Men's Fellowship Committee, and president of the Usher Board of
10 Good Shepherd Church; he was inducted into the Mayors' Senior
11 Citizens Hall of Fame in 1987; and

12 WHEREAS, He is a respected member of the Chatham Avalon
13 Park Community Council and the Chatham Business Association; he
14 has taken a leading advisory part in the rebuilding of the mall
15 at 87th and Cottage Grove and various other economic
16 initiatives in the Chatham area; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Burney's career and service to his community
18 have been highly productive, unselfish, and credible; while he
19 sought no reward except the success of his efforts, his
20 accomplishments have been attested to by the receipt of
21 numerous awards from various appreciative organizations;
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
24 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
25 we congratulate Mr. Washington D. Burney on the occasion of his
26 ninetieth birthday, and we extend to him our sincere best
27 wishes for the future; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
29 presented to him as an expression of our respect and esteem.